

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit

June 2010

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Participate in the Development of the Spring 2011 CRT

Montana K-12 educators of mathematics, communication arts and science are needed to participate in the final item review for the Spring 2011 CRT. The final item statistical review will be held in Helena, June 29-July 1, 2010. Lodging is provided for participants living 90 miles or more away from Helena. Expenses for mileage and meals not provided during the session are reimbursed. Honoraria are provided, as well as renewal units. We encourage you to register online at: <http://iservices.measuredprogress.org/Default.asp?ProgramID=11&submit1=Enter>.

Attention Student Writers!

Please consider sending in your Student Literary Magazine for NCTE's Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines (PRESLM). PRESLM honors exceptional student literary magazines from senior high, junior high, and middle schools in the United States, Canada, and from American schools abroad. The student magazines are evaluated with primary emphasis on literary aspects, although production values and the extent of student participation in production are also factors.

More [PRESLM Information](#) is available through NCTE, or [PRESLM e-mail](#). Submissions due: July 1, 2010. Results announced: February 2011.

To submit a student literary magazine for this award, contact: [Norma Mackenzie](#) 7145 Farm to Market Road, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Grants for Innovative Use of Technology in the Classroom

The QWEST Foundation has again allocated \$50,000 for grants to be awarded to Montana K-12 Educators who demonstrate innovative use of technology in the classroom. The funds will be disbursed to local teachers or schools on a competitive basis. The maximum grant award will be \$7,500 per application. Funds will be available during the 2010-2011 academic school year. The purposes of this grant: "to recognize Montana K-12 Educators who will use technology or training in innovative ways in the classroom to improve student performance, or to increase the use of technology in the classroom by sharing proven methods of how teachers are using technology to improve student performance, and to improve teaching and leadership skills of educators. The deadline is July 2, 2010, and you may obtain an application on the Montana ACTE Web site at www.montanaacte.org.

OPI Contact: Kris Goyins, (406) 444-0729, kgoyins@mt.gov

The Content Standards Informer (CSI) will be distributed the first Friday of each month through the Content Standards Informer Listserv. If you would like to receive the CSI each month please sign up for the listserv at: <http://lists.opi.mt.gov/mailman/listinfo/contentstandardsinformer>.

***MCTM Math
Coaches Retreat
2010***

August 9-10, 2010, the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics are hosting a retreat for math coaches at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake in Helena. Are you a math coach? Do you ever wonder what your role should be or look like? Do you need support from others and want to start networking with other coaches around the state of Montana? If so, this retreat is for you. The retreat is from 8:00 a.m. Monday, August 9th through 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 10, 2010. You can register for the retreat at the MCTM Web site: www.montanamath.org.

***Reaching for
Common Ground in
K-12 Mathematics
Education***

During the past decade, debates have continued between mathematicians and math educators. This document represents an attempt to identify at least three fundamental positions upon which mathematicians and math educators may be able to agree. They are that: 1) basic computational skills with numbers provide a crucial foundation for higher level mathematics; 2) math requires careful reasoning about precisely defined objects and concepts; and, 3) students must be able to formulate and solve problems. The authors concur that discourse is necessary in order to continue to seek common ground in their mutual efforts to improve K-12 mathematics teaching and learning. The whole document is available for viewing or downloading at <http://www.maa.org/common-ground/cg-report2005.html>. Other engaging articles like this one can be found at the Center on Instruction Web site: www.centeroninstruction.org.

OPI Contact: Jean Howard, (406) 444-0706, jhoward@mt.gov

***Integration of
Science and Math***

The May issue of the National Science Teachers Association Reports newspaper has an excellent article about “Where is the SMath?” SMath is about finding the science and math in everyday life. Pictures and videos related to math and science are posted on a Web site that teachers and students can access and add to as they begin to identify that SMATH is everywhere! Discover the “Where is the SMath?” Web site at www.WhereistheSMath.com.

***NASA K-8 Educator
Workshop***

You’re invited to participate in the NASA Beginning Engineering, Science and Technology K-8 Educator Workshop. The workshop is offered through a blended model of learning. On August 19th participants will complete an eight-hour session in Great Falls or via videoconference across the state. The workshop also consists of two online sessions offered through Elluminate, an online communication tool. These are 30-minute sessions: one August 16 at 7:00 p.m.; the follow-up is August 23, 7:00 p.m. The NASA BEST program was developed by a team from the NASA Space Flight Center’s Office of Education in support of NASA’s Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD). It is designed to teach students the Engineering Design Process. The Engineering Design Process is a series of steps that engineers use to guide them as they solve problems. The emphasis is for students to understand that engineers must “imagine and plan” before they begin to build and experiment. ESMD serves as a stepping stone for future exploration of Mars and other destinations. For information, or to register, contact Kay Fladstol, VisionNet, by telephone, (406) 750-4379, or by e-mail, kay.fladstol@vision.net.

OPI Contact: Katie Burke, (406) 444-3557, kburke@mt.gov

Social Emotional Health of Young Children

As the school year comes to an end, you may find yourself reflecting on the growth of your students. In many cases, the social-emotional needs of your students were the most difficult to address. Taking time this summer to learn about The Center on the Social Emotional Foundation for Early Learning (CSEFEL) may be just what you need to plan for next year's students...

The Center on the Social Emotional Foundation for Early Learning (CSEFEL) is a national resource center focused on improving the social and emotional outcomes of young children. CSEFEL provides a framework for developing nurturing and responsive relationships. This framework fosters positive outcomes through classroom arrangement, providing systematic approaches for teaching social skills, and development of ongoing positive relationships between the teacher and child, the school and families, children in the classroom, as well as teachers and other staff members. The CSEFEL framework emphasizes prevention and solutions, and provides guidance for targeted assessment-based strategies that may result in individual behavior guidance and support plans when needed for more challenging behaviors. To learn more, visit the Web site: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/index.html>.



The 2010 MT Reading and Instructional Institute, August 2-4, 2010, will offer a half-day introduction to the CSEFEL framework.

<https://toto.msu.montana.edu/cs/mri2010>

[50 Ideas on Using Twitter for Education](#)

[Using Technology to Support Diverse Learners](#)

[5 Essential Traits of 21st Century School Administrators and Leaders](#)

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Summertime Web Browsing Suggestions